

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected independent claim 4 and dependent claims 5-6 based on indefiniteness. In this Amendment, Applicants have cancelled these claims without prejudice to the subject matter therein. Thus, claims 7-21 remain pending in the patent application, with claims 7 and 17 being independent claims.

Further in the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected independent claims 7 and 17 based on Duncan in view of Guessasma. As will be further discussed below, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that Duncan does not disclose what the Examiner argues it discloses. Duncan does not disclose Applicants' claimed comparing actual values of a thermal spray coating process with target values. Rather, Duncan merely discloses controlling a deposition process according to a derived scan path plan predicted to minimize/reduce deviation from an ideal uniform parameter profile. Col. 3, lines 62-67. As further disclosed in Duncan, "the purpose of the current invention is to specify a nominal path for the robot over the sprayform that will minimize the variations in temperature over the surface." Col. 1, lines 64-66. Thus, in Duncan, the control means controls the deposition of material "according to a derived path plan predicted to minimise/reduce [sic] deviation from an ideal uniform temperature profile during the deposition process." Col. 2, lines 8-12. (emphasis added). Further, the path plan is a "predetermined path plan derived by considering spatial modes and selecting spatial modes to optimise [sic] the scan launch angle and/or path plan length preferably without exciting lower order modes." Col. 2, lines 35-38. Thus, "the predetermined path plan is beneficially derived in a process (preferably a computer software run process) in which one or more of the following input considerations are accredited". Col. 2, lines 47-51.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' claimed invention *compares actual values* to *target values* and Duncan *predicts values* based on *ideal values*. Guessasma does not cure these deficiencies of Duncan. Guessasma also predicts property-parameter evolutions.

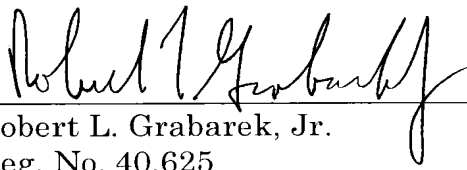
Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance for at least the above reasons. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

As provided for above, this paper includes a Petition for Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 011235.58178US).

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: May 3, 2011

By 
Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.
Reg. No. 40,625
Tel.: (949) 263-8400 (Pacific Coast)

Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, D.C. 20044-4300